

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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Official Paper for County of Nye and Town of Tonopah

TRUTH OF COURT HOUSE FIRE

The account of the courthouse fire of last Sunday, which appeared in the local papers, is entirely erroneous.

The fire was not discovered by Nick Schade, undersheriff, but by the janitor, who requested Schade to call the fire department.

The janitor was not down town, but right in the building, as is his custom on Sundays doing such work as polishing and varnishing furniture in the various offices, which work cannot be done on weekdays, owing to the presence of desks, tables, chairs, etc.

While thus engaged the janitor detected the odor of burning wood and immediately investigated the cause, with the above mentioned results.

The fire was not caused from over-

heating and as stated in the papers, but from a defective pipe, which had burst through, and being placed too close to the floor of the building, without being protected with asbestos covering, set the wooden posts afire.

This is not the first difficulty with the courthouse heating plant which never has operated properly and has cost the taxpayers more than it should have had the ordinary business methods been pursued in the purchase and installation of the plant, all of which is accompanied by very liberable mystery.

Let it be understood that neither the janitor nor the just board of commissioners is responsible for this state of affairs.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

"OFF AGAIN, ON AGAIN, COME AGAIN FINNEGEN"

"Button, button, who's got the button?"

Under which shell is the pea? You put your finger down to shake with the educated flea and he is very prominent by his absence.

All of which the general public doubtless thinks of and more, too, in hunting the answer to the question: What can or can we not do under the Volstead law?

Furthermore, the passengers of the water-mobile think they are traveling on a substantial set of three wheels, hang! one blows out due to the puncture of some prohibition enforcement ruling.

That blowout is adjusted and the aqua-juggernaut goes merrily away when the loud noise of another blasted inner tube is heard. Federal enforcement authorities have reversed themselves.

And the hunt is one continuous bump over the rocky road to absolute prohibition.

For instance, prohibition officers recently ruled that physicians might prescribe all the wine a patient might need in a month. A patient with a system like 50 square feet of blotting paper could absorb a ton or so of the red liquid that made Anacreon happy and Sappho sing, if he felt so badly off.

Now comes the news that the prohibition authorities have rescinded this carte blanche concession and no doctor may legally pre-

scribe more than a pint of wine every 10 days to any one patient.

Another for instance, some months ago the internal revenue bureau ruled to the extent of announcing that the home wine-maker could convert 200 gallons of wine free of tax, the assumption being that nobody would land in jail for making fermented grape juice in the domicile.

A little later, however, the dry censors issued another ukase revoking the seeming concession and declared that all domestic makers of the juice that made the Cana feasters happy would be prosecuted.

Thirdly, quite a while back the law was limbered up to the extent that doctors were to be allowed all the prescription blanks they wanted. But Gehenna howled and this ruling was reversed. The number of blanks is to be restricted.

Again, Attorney General Palmer decreed recently that home-dwellers could make cider as hard as the heart of a loan shark if they used some around the house.

But Tophel was raised by the prohibitionists and today the common citizen is in doubt about letting soft cider harden.

The game of "Off again, on again, gone again, Finnegen," adds one more joke to the laughter of nations and one more had art to the rotten farce of bone-dry prohibition.—Sacramento Bee.

NEGLIGENT VOTERS

Now that complete returns of the popular vote in the presidential election are available, the fact that may impress readers not acutely interested in partisan or technical politics is the number of American citizens who failed to use the privilege, exercise the right, and do the duty of voting. While 26,757,708 Jews like an enormous mass of voters, it is only about three-fourths of the number of citizens who could and should have voted.

How many residents of the 48 states had a right to vote last November? We shall know pretty closely when the census bureau issues its tables showing totals aged 21 and upwards and how many un-naturalized aliens of those ages. Meanwhile it seems possible to reach a fairly close approximation by taking the presidential vote in a preceding census year, when the contest aroused about the average popular interest, and working out a ratio of actual voters to population.

The election of 1916 seems to meet the conditions. The contest was spirited, though not as furious as some before and since. The leading issue was one of foreign policy essentially, as in 1920. Except in four mountain states containing together 1,219,554 people, only men voted. The total vote cast was 11,941,546. In a population of 26,994,875. That is, there was nearly 55 population for each vote cast.

Now the male and female population is nearly equal. Hence it may be fairly assumed that with equal suffrage throughout the nation the number of voters has been doubled. Hence it seems safe to assume that for each 2.75 popula-

tion there is one voter. With nearly 100,000,000 population there should have been over 35,000,000 votes.

There were less than 27,000,000 for all candidates. That is, one voter out of every four failed to vote. Well-known restrictions of suffrage in some sections, and the presence of some millions of un-naturalized aliens, affects the absolute numbers here used, but not their relation. These conditions also existed in 1900. With all his 18,141,629 votes, Mr. Harding is the choice of a minority of the American citizens of 21 years and upwards.

This is not a pleasing situation for those who have grasped the truth that popular government can really be so only when its decisions are those of an actual majority of one of those entitled to make them. There is a disposition in some quarters to blame the women for the failure of the total vote to reach even the 30,000,000 or 35,000,000 so freely predicted. If only men had voted in the proportion of 1900 their total vote would have been 19,454,866. No one believes that not more than 7,000,000 women voted.

If the Illinois proportion of female or male voters may be taken as a fair average for the whole country, about 11,700,000 women voted. In that case the male vote was not over 15,000,000, with far less excuse for the negligence. It is easier to see the seriousness of this negligence of citizens than to suggest remedies for it. Perhaps the only real remedy is an appeal to the individual conscience to grasp the truth that failure to vote is essentially anarchistic.

HARDING RETAINS HIS POISE

With unanimous acclaim, the American people will approve the action of Senator Harding in making discontinuance of plans for an elaborate inauguration ceremony.

Such a program would entail a waste of time and money, distract attention from the solution of serious national problems, impose discomfort and suffering upon soldiers and sailors transported and kept waiting for an inaugural parade, and set up class distinctions not in harmony with popular government. Mr. Harding's timely plea for industry and thrift will not go unheeded.

Doubly impressed upon the minds of the people by the occasion which is called forth, his appeal for immediate effort to solve the difficult problems of reconstruction will meet a hearty response. His action in a matter of relatively small importance in national affairs establishes a policy and sets a standard from which it would be difficult for any member of his administrative family to depart. The country may well feel confirmed in the conviction that by the coming administration it is to be served rather than ruled.

DUELS IN MEXICO FAVORITE SPORT

The Associated Press.
MEXICO CITY, Jan. 18.—Duelling as practiced in Mexico is the most harmless of outdoor sports. Although, scarcely a week passes but some person whose pride has been hurt challenges the offender to "placitos at 20 paces in the Bosque of Chapultepec," few reach beyond the stage of talk and none even venture a close to reality.

A deputy from one Mexican state rises in the chamber and bitterly assails a member from another state for his attitude on certain public measures. The other replies with equal vituperation. Before the day is done the chances are a challenge will be carried to one or the other by two seconds who later describe the slight efforts in a verbose report to all the newspapers.

Once in a while the challenge will be accepted and then there is a scramble on all sides to see to it that the "government intervenes" at the proper moment. Whether there is official intervention is conjecture but the announcement is always the same—that "high authorities frowned upon the contemplated struggle to death and forbade it." Pride is always satisfied by such announcement and the incident is forgotten.

U. S. AVIATORS COVER GLOBE FIFTEEN TIMES

The Associated Press.
SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Jan. 18.—Aviators of the United States first service last season in California covered 258,829 miles, or a fraction more than 15 times the circumference of the globe, according to records recently compiled.

In the flights, the aviators protected from fire 24,000,000 acres of wooded lands, growing 110,000,000,000 feet of marketable timber, conservatively estimated by the forest service as worth \$220,000,000.

Twenty-six airplanes took part in the forest flights, and in spite of the extreme hazards entailed by flying over fires, there were but three fatalities. The patrol was from the Ninth aero squadron of the army, and included a radio service effective in locating fires.

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MINI. STATE BANK CONSOLIDATED
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LIABILITIES: \$1,200,000.00
RESERVE FUND: \$1,200,000.00
TOTAL: \$3,600,000.00

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